

Information Sheet – Month of the Military Child

THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



April is the Internationally recognised month of the “Military Child”. Originating in the USA in the 1980s the month of April has become a time when the lives of service children are recognised and celebrated.

The last Friday in April has traditionally become “Purple Up Day” – a day to wear purple and especially celebrate the service communities in our schools and communities.

“Service Children in State Schools” encourages schools to celebrate this special month for our service children.

Below you will find activities and resources from a range of organisations and charities which may be of use for you in schools.

Do share your activities with your communities and with SCISS via their Facebook page.

ORGANISATIONS WHO SUPPORT THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Ministry of Defence – Armed Forces Families and Safeguarding Team

People-AFFS-EducaEon-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Service children can face challenges with parents in the armed forces. Yet these children are also an amazing asset to families, schools and the local community.

- On ‘Purple Up! Day’. Ask the pupils to wear something purple (the colour of #MotMC) and hold an assembly highlighting positive stories about their lives.
- Use this to share good news stories about your school with families and the local media.
- Tag events you are running or participating in with the hashtag #MotMC or #monthofthemilitarychild.
- Put on a breakfast event. Include all parents associated with the armed forces. Don't forget to invite staff who were once Service children too!
- Highlight April as ‘Month of the Military Child’ on the school's website. Discuss what support you can offer, particularly with families new to the area.

- Consider hosting a 'person in uniform day'. Invite a serving parent to come to the school to read to children or talk about their role in the services either in class or during an assembly.
- "Share Your Story" project: Get children to think about their life experience and how they might share this with the rest of the class. Children can create artwork or a journal about their experiences.
- Create a Time Zone Wall: A series of clocks on a wall identifying different time zones from around the world, with a focus on where Service children have lived before is a great conversation starter.

For further information contact: People-AFFS-EducaEon-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Never Such Innocence

(<https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/voices-of-armed-forces-children>)

The charity Never Such Innocence provides tools for children and young people (9-18) to reflect on the realities of war and conflict. They are running an art/ poetry competition throughout about Service children.

Please see <https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/month-of-the-military-child> for more details.

Armed Forces Family Federations

The families' federations all have activities and events listed on their websites:

Army – (<https://aff.org.uk/news/month-of-the-military-child/>)

Navy – (<https://nff.org.uk/april-marks-the-month-of-the-military-child/>)

RAF – (<https://www.raf-ff.org.uk/education/month-of-the-military-child/>)

Little Troopers

(<https://www.littletroopers.net/celebrate-month-of-the-military-child/>)

Little Troopers have a wide range of activities suitable for use at school or at home as well as online workshops.

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity

(<https://www.mrmc.org.uk/news/month-military-child>)

This website has links to organisations that can support children and families of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

